

### **3.18 Relationship Between Short-Term Uses of the Environment and the Maintenance and Enhancement of Long-Term Productivity**

This section of NEPA asks the Lead Agency to consider whether a proposed action is sacrificing a resource value that might benefit the environment in the long term, for some short-term value to the sponsor or the public. For example, cutting a 20-acre forest to create an open space for an annual county fair might be considered elimination of long-term productivity for a short-term use. An impact that has short-term benefits and long-term impacts might fall into the same category.

The uses of the environment (other than natural resources described below) involve the sites of the plant and transmission facilities. The plant site itself is committed for the life of the facility and will be restored to a suitable condition consistent with zoning upon the retirement of the facility. The site productivity is low overall and will be returned to a similar condition upon closure of the facility. Overall productivity of the transmission line corridors will remain similar to existing conditions because land uses will not be changed except where access road spurs are required.

To the extent that the short-term (30-year) operation of this facility contributes to the possibility of a long-term increase in global warming due to release of greenhouse gases, this project does have a potential impact on long-term productivity. The relative emissions from this facility, compared to global emissions, are also discussed in this EIS.

The use of these environments will result in the generation of electrical energy which will help maintain and enhance the productivity of the Pacific Northwest and its economy. Overall, the proposal's use of the environment has very little adverse impact on the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity.